

What is claimed as new and desired to be protected by Letters

Patent of the United States is:

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1. A method of answering an incoming call at a cordless telephone comprising the steps of:

a first party answering the incoming call at a handset of the cordless telephone, the handset being at a location separate from a base unit of the cordless telephone;

the first party alerting a second party, by initiating an intercom connection between the handset and the base unit, while the incoming call is automatically placed in a hold status; and

the second party accepting the incoming call at the base unit by terminating the hold status.

2. A method as in claim 1, wherein the first party accepts the incoming call by terminating the hold status.

3. A method of answering an incoming call at a cordless telephone comprising the steps of:

a first party answering the incoming call at the base unit of the cordless telephone, the handset being at a location separate from a base unit of the cordless telephone;

the first party alerting a second party, by initiating an intercom connection between the base unit and the handset, while the incoming call is automatically placed in a hold status; and

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the second party accepting the incoming call at the handset by terminating the hold status.

4. A method as in claim 3, wherein the first party accepts the incoming call by terminating the hold status.

5. A method of answering an incoming call at a cordless telephone with multiple handsets comprising the steps of:

a first party answering the incoming call at the first handset of the cordless telephone, the second handset being at a location separate from a base unit of the cordless telephone and said first handset;

the first party alerting a second party, by initiating an intercom connection between said first handset and said second handset, while the incoming call is automatically placed in a hold status; and

the second party accepting the incoming call at the handset by terminating the hold status.

6. A cordless telephone system comprising:

a base station including first control circuitry for controlling operations at said base station;

at least one cordless telephone handset for communicating with said base station, each including second control circuitry for controlling operations at said handset;

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said first and second control circuitry operating in response to initiation of an intercom communication at one of said base station and handset to place an active call at at least one of said base station and handset on hold during said intercom communication.

5 7. The system as in claim 6, wherein said first control circuitry causes an active call to be placed on hold when an intercom communication is initiated during an active call and initiates an intercom communication between said base unit and said handset.

10 8. The system as in claim 7, wherein said first control circuitry causes an active call to be re-engaged when said base unit or said handset terminates said intercom communication.

15 9. A cordless telephone system comprising:
a base station including first control circuitry for controlling operations at said base station;
at least a first and second cordless telephone handsets for communicating with said base station including second and third control circuitry for controlling operations at said first and second handsets respectively;

20 said first, second and third control circuitry operating in response to initiation of an intercom communication at said base station or one of said first and second handsets to place an active call on hold during said intercom communication.

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10. The system as in claim 9, wherein said first control circuitry causes an active call to be placed on hold when an intercom communication is initiated during an active call and initiates an intercom communication between said base unit and said at least a first and second handsets.

5 11. The system as in claim 10, wherein said first control circuitry causes an active call to be re-engaged when said base unit or one of said at least a first and second handsets terminates said intercom communication.

12. A cordless telephone system comprising
a base station including first control circuitry for controlling operations at
10 said base station and separate intercom buttons for each handset;

at least a first and second cordless telephone handsets for communicating with said base station including second and third control circuitry for controlling operations at said first and second handsets respectively and a separate intercom button for said base station and each other of said handsets;

15 said first, second and third control circuitry operating in response to initiation of an intercom communication at one of said base station and said first and second handsets to place an active call on hold during said intercom communication.

20 13. The system as in claim 12, wherein said first control circuitry causes an active call to be placed on hold when an intercom communication is initiated

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a controller;

18. A cordless telephone handset as in claim 17, wherein said controller causes an active call to be re-engaged and said intercom communication to end when said intercom initiator is activated during an intercom communication or an intercom initiation signal is received during an active call.

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